

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner Amiri for the analysis set forth in the Office Action dated January 11, 2008.

Allowable Subject Matter

In particular, applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 2 as well as Claims 3-9 as they depend on Claim 2.

Election/Restriction

Furthermore, applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that the election requirement has been withdrawn. Allowable Claim 2 is considered generic. Claims 8 and 9 have been rejoined and are allowable for their dependence on Claim 2.

Claim Rejection Under U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5/1, 6/1, and 7/1 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Strizki. In the "Response to Arguments" section of the Office Action (page 5), the Examiner noted that Claim 1 does not require the groove to be on the hollow cylindrical part. It appears that the Examiner's position would have been different had the claim clearly specified that the groove was on the hollow cylindrical part. Accordingly, applicant has amended Claim 1 to address the Examiner's remaining concern.

Claim Rejection Under U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3/1 and 4/1 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strizki in view Mudge, Jr. Applicant submits that Claims 3 and 4 are allowable over Strizki and Mudge, Jr., both for their depend on allowable Claim 1 and for the additional subject matter they recite. The disclosure of Mudge, Jr., does not overcome the deficiency of disclosure of Strizki as discussed above in regard to Claim 1.

Rejoinder of Claims 8 and 9 As Based On Claim 1

Where Claim 1 is in allowable condition, Claims 8 and 9 as depending on Claim 1 are also allowable over the cited art. Accordingly, Claims 8 and 9 should be rejoined with allowable Claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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